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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

UOE
11/28/01

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
HISAKI SUMIMURA ET AL : ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION
SERIAL NO: NEW U.S. PCT APPLICATION :
(Based on PCT/JP00/09152)
FILED: HEREWITH :
FOR: AQUEOUS CARBON-CONTAINING :
UNSHAPED REFRACTORIES

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 5 and 6 as follows.

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5. (Amended) The aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory according to claim 3, wherein ultrafine powder having a particle diameter of 10 μ m or less occupies 2 to 15% by weight of the remainder of the refractory except for the carbon black material and the β -naphthalenesulfonic acid-formaldehyde condensate sodium salt.

6. (Amended) The aqueous carbon-containing unshaped refractory according to claim 1, wherein the refractory has an apparent porosity after drying of 13.0% or less.